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LANDMARK OPIOID RULING
In the first case of its kind, an Oklahoma judge on Monday ruled against Johnson & Johnson to the tune of $572 million in damages for the drugmaker's role in fueling the state's opioid crisis by deceptively marketing addictive painkillers. 2
Johnson & Johnson
$10,000
REUTERS | ISTOCK PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

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8 THINGS TO KNOW

J&J liable for $572 million in Oklahoma opioid epidemic trial, but shares surge

Landmark case is a bellwether for 2,000 other pending suits.

Judge Thad Balkman watches a video on the first day of a trial accusing Johnson & Johnson of engaging in deceptive marketing that contributed to the national opioid epidemic in Norman, Oklahoma. REUTERS

An Oklahoma judge on Monday found Johnson & Johnson liable for fueling an opioid epidemic in the state by deceptively marketing addictive painkillers, and ordered the drugmaker to pay $572.1 million.

The award was well below what some investors and analysts feared, in what had been a $17 billion lawsuit viewed as a bellwether for other litigation nationwide over the opioid epidemic.

"The expectation was this was going to be a $1.5 billion to $2 billion fine," said Jared Holz, healthcare strategist for Jefferies. "$572 million is a much lower number than had been feared."

J&J shares rose 5 percent in extended trading following the decision. Shares of other drugmakers that sell opioid pain treatments, including Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd. and Endo International PLC, also rose after-hours.

Still, J&J said it would appeal, and seek to put payment of the award on hold during the appeal process.

"Janssen did not cause the opioid crisis in Oklahoma, and neither the facts nor the law support this outcome," Michael Ullmann, J&J's general counsel, said in a statement. Janssen Pharmaceuticals is the healthcare conglomerate's primary prescription drugs unit.

The decision by Judge Thad Balkman of Cleveland County District Court in Norman, Oklahoma, followed a seven-week, non-jury trial.

The case, brought by Oklahoma Attorney General Mike Hunter, was the first to go to trial out of thousands of lawsuits filed by state and local governments against opioid manufacturers and distributors.

Oklahoma alleged that J&J's marketing practices helped fuel the opioid epidemic by flooding the market with painkillers.

> **"Johnson & Johnson will finally be held accountable for thousands of deaths and addictions caused by their actions."**
> Mike Hunter, Oklahoma attorney general

"Johnson & Johnson will finally be held accountable for thousands of deaths and addictions caused by their actions," Hunter said.

Oklahoma sued J&J to help it address the epidemic for the next 30 years through addiction treatment and prevention programs.

"The opioid crisis is an imminent danger and menace to Oklahomans," Balkman said.

But in his written decision, the judge said the figure he awarded covered only one year, saying Oklahoma did not offer enough evidence of the time and costs to address the opioid crisis beyond that.

The trial came after Oklahoma had resolved claims against OxyContin maker Purdue Pharma LP in March for $270 million and against Teva in May for $85 million, leaving J&J as the lone defendant.

The litigation has been closely watched by plaintiffs in about 2,000 opioid lawsuits pending before a federal judge in Ohio who has been pushing for a settlement ahead of an October trial.

Some plaintiffs' lawyers have compared the opioid cases to litigation by states against the tobacco industry that led to a $246 billion settlement in 1998.

Opioids were involved in almost 400,000 overdose deaths from 1999 to 2017, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Since 2000, some 6,000 Oklahomans have died from opioid overdoses, according to the state's lawyers.

During the trial, lawyers for Oklahoma argued that J&J carried out a years-long marketing campaign that minimized the painkillers' addiction risks and promoted their benefits.

The state's lawyers called J&J an opioid "kingpin" and argued that its marketing efforts created a public nuisance as doctors over-prescribed the drugs, leading to a surge in overdose deaths in Oklahoma.

J&J has denied wrongdoing, saying its marketing claims had scientific support and that its painkillers, Duragesic and Nucynta, accounted for a fraction of opioids prescribed in Oklahoma.

The company also said in a statement that since 2008, its painkillers accounted for less than 1 percent of the U.S. market, including generics.

Lawyers for New Jersey-based J&J have said the case rested on a "radical" interpretation of the state's public nuisance law.

Ullmann, the J&J general counsel, in his statement faulted Oklahoma for attempting a "misapplication of public nuisance law" that judges in other states had already rejected.

J&J said it remains "open to viable options" to resolve the case scheduled for trial in October, including through settlement. REUTERS

Ginsburg makes first speech since latest cancer scare

2 Liberal U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg appeared alert and in good spirits on Monday as she made her first public appearance since completing a three-week course of radiation therapy to treat pancreatic cancer. The 86-year-old justice, who has had several previous cancer scares, was escorted onstage but at times stood unassisted as she was awarded an honorary the degree at the University at Buffalo of the State University of New York. The court announced on Friday that Ginsburg had undergone radiation therapy after a malignant tumor was identified following a biopsy performed on July 31 in New York. A court statement said the tumor was "treated definitively" and that there was no evidence of disease elsewhere in Ginsburg's body. As the oldest justice, she is closely watched for any signs of deteriorating health. REUTERS

US to seek death penalty for accused synagogue shooter

3 U.S. prosecutors will seek the death penalty for Robert Bowers, the man accused of bursting into a Pittsburgh synagogue last year with a semi-automatic rifle and shooting 11 people to death, according to court papers filed on Monday. Bowers, 46, shouted "all Jews must die" as he fired on congregants gathered for a Sabbath service at the Tree of Life synagogue on Oct. 27, authorities said. Bowers has pleaded not guilty in U.S. District Court in Pittsburgh to a 63-count indictment. The charges he faces include using a firearm to commit murder and obstruction of free exercise of religious belief resulting in death. Also, he targeted vulnerable people, because some of his victims were elderly, and demonstrated a lack of remorse, federal prosecutors said in court papers. An attorney for Bowers, death penalty specialist Judith Clarke, did not immediately return a call seeking comment. REUTERS

Clinical trials paving way for improved mental health care

HASSMAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE

ASK HRI:

Clinical trials are a powerful tool when it comes to mental health treatment, especially for those who are living without adequate health insurance. Through innovative studies, Hassman Research Institute brings together some of the nation's leading specialists to make breakthroughs in a wide variety of mental illnesses. Metro spent time with Dr. Steven J. Glass, HRI's psychiatric medical director, to shed light on how clinical trials are paving the way for improved treatment and better patient care.

How are clinical trials improving mental health treatment?

I've spent most of my career working with serious mental illnesses like schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and depression. About 20 years ago, I started working in clinical trials research where we were doing the work necessary to determine whether new products were useful in the treatment of particular conditions, or if already-on-the-market products were useful in treating conditions they weren't originally intended to treat. What I found was that by following a protocol provided by a pharmaceutical sponsor, we had the opportunity to monitor the participants in a much closer way than in traditional community-available treatment.

In a depression trial, for example, the patient would receive their first evaluative session within just seven days of starting a study medication.

What are the other benefits of enrolling in a clinical trial?

I've worked with families who have great private insurance, but received more satisfying care by participating in a clinical trial. One family in particular had two children with attention deficit disorder.

Their oldest child came through a clinical trial and his mother felt like she got tremendous support; like she wasn't handling his condition alone. She essentially had a clinical research team collaborating in understanding and assessing his condition. She treated her younger child through her insurance and was displeased with how infrequently they saw clinicians. She also didn't feel like she got the kind of support that would have been most helpful, especially in managing some of the hyperactive behaviors.

What role does insurance play in a clinical trial?

My interest has always been in helping people get the treatment they need, rather than be limited by an insurance company that may not be looking out for their best interest. This is why clinical trials research has always appealed to me. With clinical trials, we're working on protocols, so there's flexibility. Patients can always have an unscheduled visit to ask questions and get help. They don't have to answer to anyone or fight an appeal to get the care they need.

What makes HRI special?

They were among the first to get a good handle on the bane of clinical trials, which is the placebo response. HRI has been a national leader in developing specific processes to minimize the placebo response, reinforcing at every visit that the subjects participating in the trial are participating in a placebo-controlled trial, if that's indeed the case. The success of the trial is based on the honest reporting of individuals about their experience taking the study drug.

HRI also has a program called *Caring for the Community*, which assures people that if they don't improve over the course of their participation in the clinical trial, there will be an opportunity for them to be treated at no cost to them with a standard-of-care medication.

Dr. Steven J. Glass
Psychiatric Medical Director

We don't abandon them at the completion of the clinical trial.

HRI, based in Berlin, New Jersey, conducts comprehensive physical and mental health research across a wide range of medical conditions.

To learn more about their latest trial opportunities, see the back page of today's Metro or visit http://www.hritrials.com - 856-753-7335.

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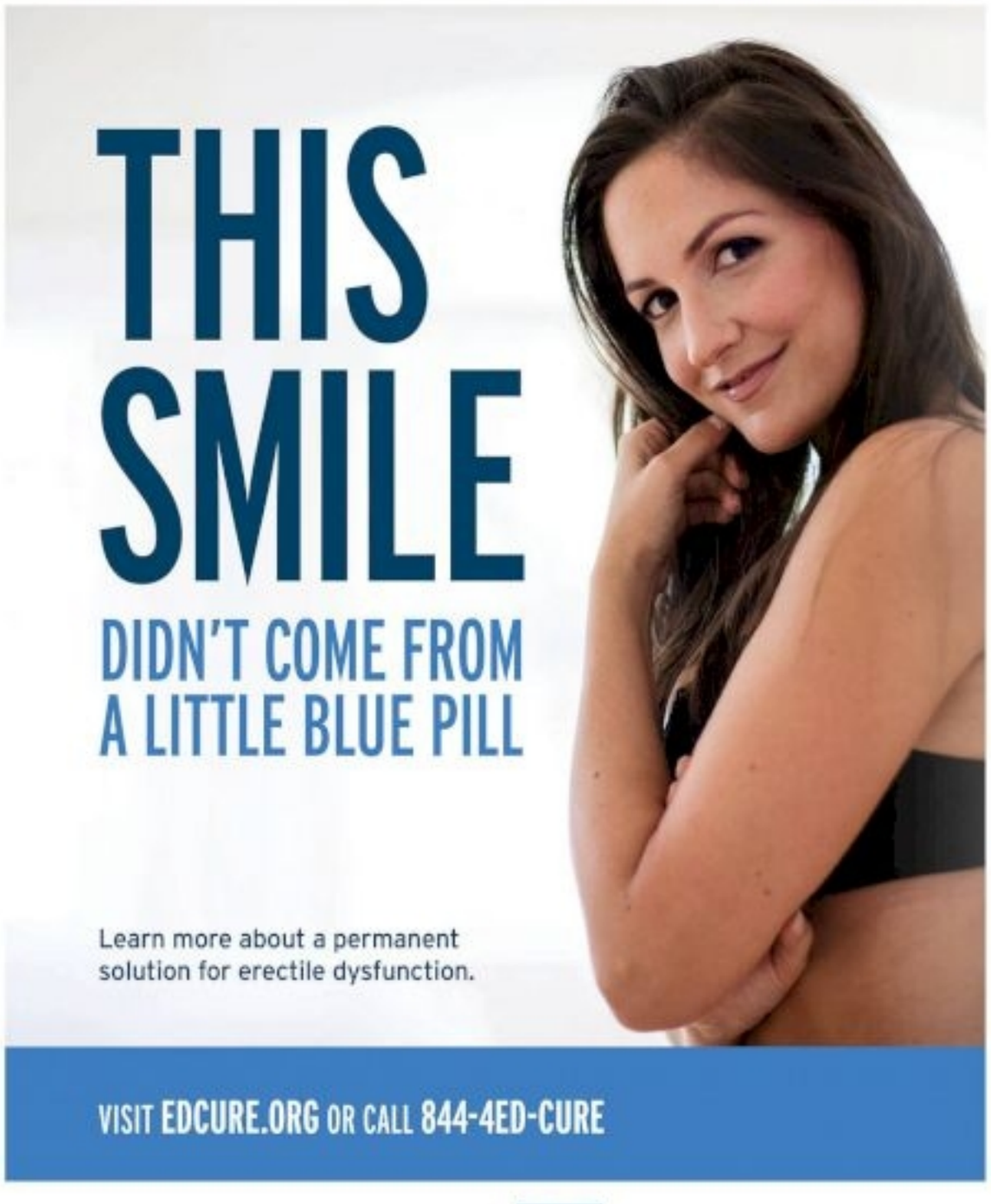
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ISTOCK IMAGES

Lawsuit: Philly sidewalks discriminate against people with disabilities

The suit claims Philadelphia's sidewalks are "riddled with barriers."

MORGAN ROUSSEAU
morgan@metro.us

A new class-action lawsuit accuses the city of Philadelphia of discriminating against people with disabilities by failing to provide safe, accessible pedestrian routes and sidewalks.

The lawsuit, which Philly Voice reported, was filed Monday in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, represents four Philadelphians and three nonprofits, and claims the city "discriminates against residents and visitors with disabilities that affect their mobility by failing to make its sidewalks and pedestrian routes accessible to people who use wheelchairs or are blind."

The suit claims that there are not enough curb ramps, and that the ramps that do exist don't meet safety standards. Other concerns include crumbling pavement, dangerous slopes and construction zone detours, and obstructive snow piles, according to Philly Voice.

Furthermore, the report states, the suit says city sidewalks are "riddled with barriers," causing major problems for people who are visually impaired or rely on wheelchairs, motorized scooters or crutches to get around. Such barriers include parked cars and outdoor furniture.

The lawsuit wants the city to fix up pedestrian routes so everyone, including people with disabilities, can travel safely.

When asked for comment, a city spokesperson said upon receipt of the complaint they will review and assess the allegations and the city's defenses.

Philly residents can visit Phila.gov to file an ADA grievance against the city and submit a request for curb ramps and other reasonable modifications.

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BRIEF

Philadelphia Police unveils new website to help solve murder cases

Newly appointed Acting Police Commissioner Christine M. Coulter is following through on her promise to combat violence in Philadelphia with the launch of PhillyUnsolvedMurders.com.

On the website, anyone can share anonymous information to help solve unsolved homicides.

The website allows people to submit written details, videos, recordings, photos and documents that could aid police in finding a killer.

"The members of this department and I are committed to supporting victims of crime and their families," Coulter said in a statement on the launch. "I cannot imagine a crime that is more devastating to an entire family, and frankly to a community, than murder. Families, friends and communities are forever changed when someone they know or love is killed. We believe every victim deserves justice, and their families, friends and communities deserve resolution, and if possible, an opportunity for closure.

"We are committed to identifying the people who are responsible for taking another person's life. Identifying them is a critical step in a path toward justice," Coulter added.

PhillyUnsolvedMurders.com states that a "standing cash reward of up to $20,000 is given for essential information

Cops shoot dogs, killing 1, as man is mauled in North Philly

Images of a Bullmastiff (left) and pit bull (right) are different from the dogs involved in Monday's attack. ISTOCK IMAGES

Philadelphia police shot at two large dogs, killing one, as they viciously mauled a man in North Philadelphia early Monday.

The man, who police said is in his 50s but was otherwise not identified, suffered significant blood loss and injury during the incident, which unfolded at around 4:30 a.m. at 6th and Tioga streets. The man was pulled to the ground, shaken and bit several times in the arms and legs by a 100-pound Bullmastiff and a pit bull, NBC reported.

Police responded to the area after receiving reports of a man screaming. Philadelphia Police Chief Inspector Scott Small told outlets that wounds were so deep that bone was visible through the wounds, and police had to make tourniquets to stop the flow of blood.

Police arrived on the scene and discharged their service weapons to stop the dogs. The Bullmastiff was killed when police opened fire. The pit bull ran away, but was struck by a bullet as it escaped.

The victim was rushed to Temple University Hospital and was reported in critical condition as of Monday afternoon.

It's not clear where the dogs came from, and no charges had been filed in the incident. The investigation is ongoing as police interview witnesses. Surveillance cameras reportedly caught the attack on video. According to the American Kennel Club, Bullmastiffs can be as tall as 27 inches and weight up to 100 pounds. Whereas pit bulls, according to CanineJournal.com, weigh on average somewhere between 30-65 pounds and can be as tall as 21 inches. According to Dogbite.org, about 4.5 million dog bites occur every year in the United States, and one out of five usually get infected. The organization reports that dog bites occur every 75 seconds in the United States.

BECCA GLASSER-BAKER

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leading to the arrest and conviction of a person or people who committed a murder in Philadelphia."

Besides accepting tips on unsolved homicides, the website will allow victims' families and friends to post information about their loved ones. "The families of the victims are going to be a part of this website," Deputy Police Commissioner Dennis Wilson said at a press conference. "They're given an opportunity to submit photos and a message about their loved ones, a reflection."

At the moment, the site is focused on solving unsolved cases from 2018 and 2019. Philly police are currently working on outreach to victims' families from previous years. They are hoping to backfill the information as quickly as they can. BECCA GLASSER-BAKER

ISTOCK

DEA to expand marijuana research after years of delay

Federal opposition may be waning as more states legalize use.

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration said on Monday that it will move ahead with a long-delayed expansion of its marijuana research program, in a sign that the Trump administration's hostility to the drug may be waning as a growing number of states have legalized its use.

The DEA said it would roll out new guidelines that would allow more growers to produce marijuana for scientific and medical research.

That could eventually lead to "safe and effective drug products that may be approved for marketing by the Food and Drug Administration," the agency said in a regulatory filing.

The DEA also said producers of hemp, an industrial form of marijuana that has little psychoactive effect, will not have to get a permit from the agency.

The announcement comes more than three years after the DEA first said in August 2016 that it would expand the number of licensed growers.

Only one producer at the University of Mississippi is currently licensed to produce marijuana. Researchers complain that the monopoly has limited the types of cannabis available for study, restricting their ability to learn about the more than 100 chemical compounds in the drug.

The DEA has yet to take action on the 33 applications it has received since then, as the Trump administration has threatened a crackdown on a drug that is now legal for recreational or medical use in 33 states and the District of Columbia.

Marijuana remains illegal under federal law, creating legal uncertainty and freezing many businesses out of the banking system.

Then-U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions told federal prosecutors in January 2018 that they could go after marijuana users and producers in states that had legalized the drug, reversing the hands-off position taken by the Obama administration.

The threat of prosecution has not slowed action at the state level, as eight states have approved marijuana for medical or recreational use since then.

The legal market is expected to reach $12.4 billion in the United States this year and nearly double in size by 2025, according to New Frontier Data.

The DEA says 542 people are now registered to conduct research on the drug, up 40 percent from January 2017, and the production quota has more than doubled over that period.

A wider variety of growers will give those researchers more opportunity, DEA Acting Administrator Uttam Dhillon said.

"We believe registering more growers will result in researchers having access to a wider variety for study," Dhillon said in a statement.

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U.S. President Trump speaks as he meets Egypt's President Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi (not pictured) for bilateral talks during the G7 summit in Biarritz, France. REUTERS

Trump says China trade deal coming, Beijing calls for 'calm' resolution of dispute

After G7, both countries shared a willingness to negotiate.

U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday predicted a trade deal with China after positive gestures by Beijing, calming global markets that have been roiled by new tariffs from the world's two largest economies.

Trump said after a G7 summit of world leaders in Biarritz, France, that he believed China was sincere about wanting to reach a deal, citing what he described as increasing economic pressure on Beijing and job losses there.

Chinese Vice Premier Liu He, who has been leading the talks with Washington, said on Monday that China was willing to resolve the trade dispute through "calm" negotiations and opposed any increase in trade tensions.

Trump cited Liu's comments as a positive sign, underscoring his seniority, and repeated his assertion that Chinese officials had contacted U.S. trade counterparts overnight and offered to resume negotiations, a claim China declined to confirm.

"I think they want to make a deal very badly. I think that was elevated last night. The vice chairman of China came out, he said he wants to see a deal made," Trump said.

"The longer they wait the harder it is to put back, if it can be put back at all," Trump said at a news conference with French President Emmanuel Macron. "I don't think they have a choice."

Trump said he was more upbeat about the prospects for an agreement than in the recent past.

Days after referring to President Xi Jinping as an enemy, Trump heaped praise on his Chinese counterpart in separate remarks twice on Monday, alternately calling him a "great leader" and a "brilliant man."

In Beijing, Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said he had not heard that a phone call between the two sides had taken place. However, China's Commerce Ministry typically releases statements on trade calls. It did not respond to a request for comment.

When pressed on whether a call had taken place, Trump emphasized Liu's comments. U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said there had been contact between the two sides but declined to say with whom.

Hu Xijin, editor of the state-controlled Global Times newspaper, tweeted: "Based on what I know, Chinese and U.S. top negotiators didn't hold phone talks in recent days. The two sides have been keeping contact at technical level, it doesn't have significance that President Trump suggested." REUTERS

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Film producer Harvey Weinstein arrives at New York Supreme Court for the arraignment in his sexual assault case on Monday in Manhattan. REUTERS

Harvey Weinstein pleads not guilty, rape trial delayed

Actress Annabella Sciorra will now testify at January trial.

Former Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein pleaded not guilty on Monday to a new indictment as his upcoming criminal trial was pushed back to January, in a case where prosecutors have accused him of rape and predatory sexual assault.

Weinstein, 67, entered his plea in a New York state court in Manhattan, where his trial was delayed by four months, to Jan. 6, 2020. He had faced a Sept. 9 trial date.

The new indictment accuses Weinstein of two counts of predatory sexual assault, stemming from alleged assaults against two women, in 2006 and 2013. Those charges are essentially the same as those in the previous indictment against Weinstein, and prosecutors moved Monday to consolidate the two cases.

However, the new indictment also comes with a disclosure that a third woman will be called to testify that Weinstein raped her in 1993 to bolster the prosecutors' case. Weinstein cannot be charged directly with raping that woman, actress Annabella Sciorra, because the statute of limitations has run out.

New York Supreme Court Justice James Burke, who is presiding over the case, had previously ruled that Sciorra could not testify because the grand jury that returned the earlier indictment had not heard any evidence about her alleged rape.

"I commend Annabella for her willingness to take the stand and answer questions under oath," Sciorra's lawyer, Gloria Allred, said in a statement on Monday.

Donna Rotunno, one of Weinstein's lawyers, said after the hearing that Weinstein would seek to dismiss the new indictment, calling the case "weak."

Once among Hollywood's most powerful producers, he has pleaded not guilty to five criminal charges in the earlier indictment, including rape and predatory sexual assault. He could face a life sentence if convicted.

The two women in the earlier indictment are among roughly 70 who have accused Weinstein of sexual misconduct dating back decades. Weinstein has denied the allegations and said any sexual encounters were consensual.

> **"I commend Annabella for her willingness to take the stand and answer questions under oath."**
>
> Sciorra's lawyer, Gloria Allred

Lawyers for Weinstein have asked that the trial be moved, perhaps to Suffolk County on Long Island or to Albany County upstate, because intense media scrutiny in New York City would make it impossible for him to get a fair trial there, according to a court filing. REUTERS

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— **Julieanne,**
Metro US reader

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries If you take a break, relax and find something you enjoy doing, you'll ease your stress. Walk away from controlling people, and use your intelligence to further your interests.

Taurus Don't make a fuss; do what you do best. If you take control, others will fall in line behind you. Strive to be your best, do your best and look your best.

Gemini Pick and choose wisely. Not everyone is on your team, regardless of what you are led to believe. For best results, do things your way.

Cancer Believe in the possibilities. If you dare to dream, you'll come up with a plan that could be quite successful. Personal gains, self-improvement and love are on the rise.

Leo You may be tempted to make a move or change, but before you do so, consider the ramifications. Time is on your side. Focus on networking and gathering information. Slow down.

Virgo Your contributions to your community will make you stand out. You'll gain respect for your honesty and integrity. Do what you can and be proud of what you do.

Libra Don't let anyone limit what you can do. Look at the big picture and make adjustments that will encourage success. If you can make do with less, it's in your best interest.

Scorpio A change is heading your way. Get ready to take a chance, and try using your skills and experience to reach new levels. You can grow emotionally and spiritually.

Sagittarius Consider who you are dealing with before you enter into a competition or decide to form a partnership. A lack of honesty or integrity may disrupt your plans.

Capricorn It's up to you to make things happen. Don't sit around waiting for someone else to do things for you. If you take charge, you'll gain respect and the support you need.

Aquarius Consider what you have been doing and what you wish you were doing. Find the middle ground and inch your way toward your goal. Success takes time, so don't lose sight of your dream.

Pisces Be willing to give a little if you want to get something in return. There is money to be made if you invest in something that you have control over. EUGENIA LAST

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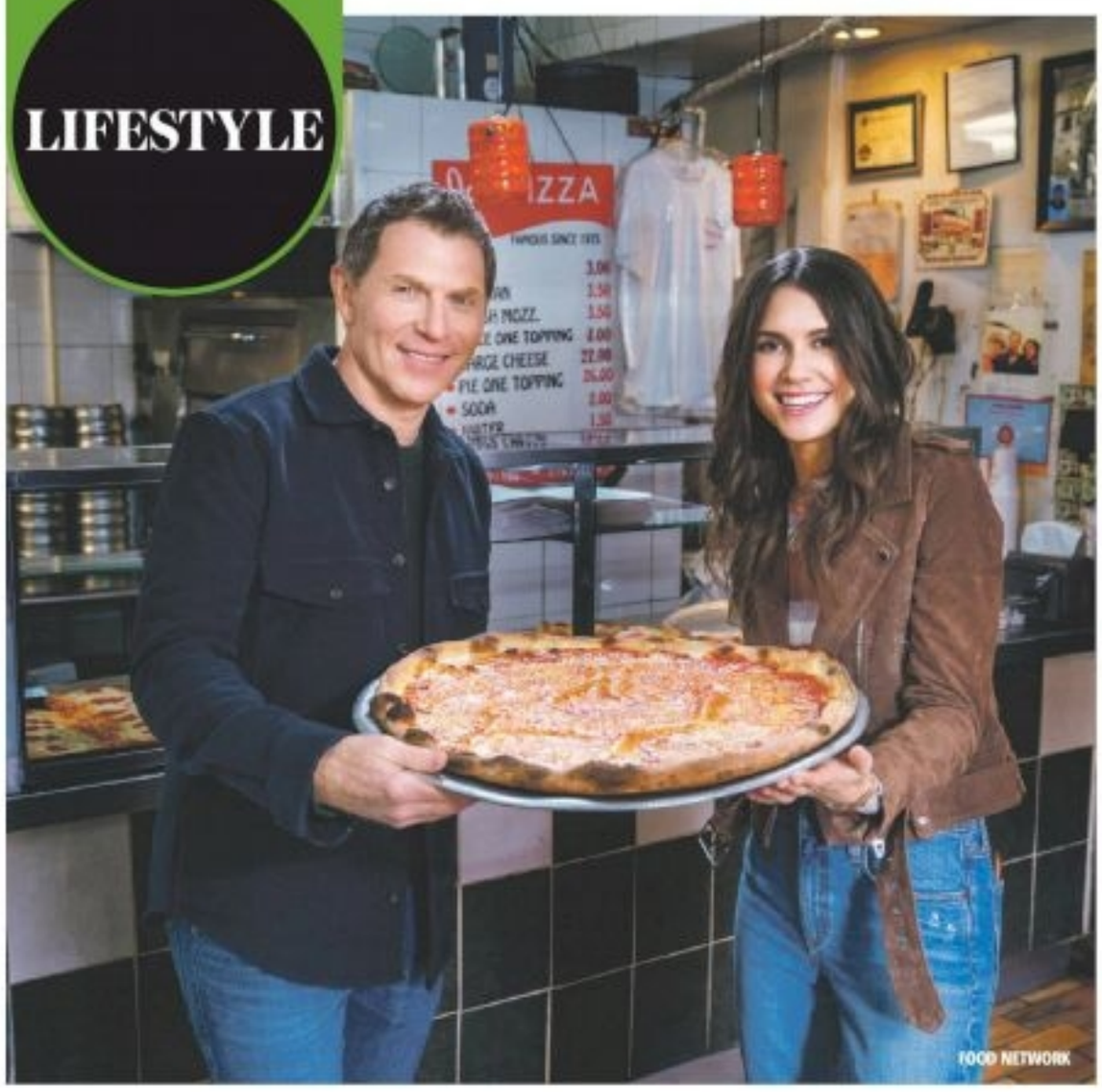

Sophie Flay gives Metro the scoop on her new show with dad Bobby, "The Flay List."

MOLLY GIVEN
Molly.Given@metro.us

Many foodies and culinary fans know who Bobby Flay is, and you may even know a bit about his family as well. But with the acclaimed chef's latest show, "The Flay List," you will get to see a side of Flay that you wouldn't normally. Chef Flay has teamed up with his daughter Sophie, and the food-friendly family duo is showcasing some of New York City's best restaurants every week with their new project. Sophie Flay sat down with Metro to give the scoop on working with her dad and how she hand-picked some of the eateries on "The Flay List."

Where did the idea for "The Flay List" come from?
I do have to give credit to my dad, the idea for this show was definitely his. But we've always kind of thought about trying to do something [together]. I've appeared as a guest on some of his shows, but we've never really worked on a project side by side. I've never really wanted to be in food or be a chef, but I think he was hoping that one day I would want to do something surrounding food, because it is such a big part of our lives together. About a year ago, he came up with this idea to showcase some of the great restaurants in New York City, and luckily I was included in that idea.

How did you pick the eateries you showcase?
Well, I'm always doing research but these are spots that I had already loved, and it helped once we narrowed down the dish that we were going to focus on for each episode. I wanted to show something very different than what my dad shows because his takes are classic New York restaurants that I've been going to my whole life, so when I would hear the words "tacos" or "fried chicken," I would immediately think of these childhood spots where I remember him bringing me. So I made sure to put in work to choose places that obviously have amazing flavors and were places that I loved, but definitely had a different vibe from the places I knew he was going to choose.

Was it hard narrowing down these spots?
It definitely varied, because of course there are so many amazing places to eat in New York. It took a little time. I mean, fried chicken means so many different things now. You have Nashville fried chicken or Korean fried chicken ... there are so many different choices. It was hard but I'm happy with what I chose.

Are there any episodes that stick out to you as memorable?
The burger episode at J.G Melon really sticks out to me because I had grown up going there my whole life and we have a lot of family ties with the owners. I go there all of the time, no matter what, but being back there brought back all of these memories. It was special and it took me by surprise. That [episode] definitely stuck out to me in that regard.

What was the best part of working on this project with your dad?
We've never done anything this big together, and to not only have created these memories but have them for life is special. We will always have a copy of these episodes and we'll be able to look back on them. It's incredibly special.

Would you ever want to do a show like this again?
You know, I'm a local news reporter in L.A. for ABC 7, so I am very much on an early career path to be a reporter — that's what I want to do. If people wanted us to do another season it would absolutely be a ton of fun, but for now, I'm definitely going to stick to my journalism career.

Overall, what would you tell audiences to expect from "The Flay List"?
I think my dad described it perfectly: It's really his kind of love story to New York, and we are able to showcase some of these amazing places that have been here for decades with a young twist. You can definitely expect some very classic and playful scenes of my dad and I and see parts of our relationship that make it really special.

Catch "The Flay List" Thursdays at 10:30 p.m. ET on Food Network.

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'I was one of house music's pioneers' CRYSTAL WATERS

Metro chatted with the iconic voice of '90s house.

LAURA LOPEZ, MWN
letters@metro.us

Tell us about your new song, "United in Dance."
It's quite lively. I did it with a producer called R-Naldo. I am very excited, it is very sticky and I think it is a song that people will like very much. It is a much more commercial house song.

At the beginning of your career, your music was described as dance rather than house.
I think I started doing house, but people didn't know what it was at that time. Then, when they recognized it, they realized that I was one of the genre pioneers. I did house at that time. Since I was on the radio, many thought it was pop, because it was on a lot. But the truth is that songs like "Gypsy Woman" were a bridge between genres. I think that was what happened.

What do you feel when you listen to your songs/remixes/samples?
It's wonderful, I feel that some songs have their own life. They are on their own out there doing their thing. … I like to think that when I am gone, my music will continue playing. I will have a hashtag that says #GypsyWomanLivesAgain [laughs]. I think, in fact, Afrojack used part of a song of mine recently. That's fine with me.

Talking about the new generations, it is known that many DJs share their tracks for you to decide whether or not you want to collaborate with them. Tell us more about that process.
I think it has to do with the instruments having a good hook. I usually look for that, but I also pay attention to the bassline. It fascinates me to find a very heavy bass [laughs]. It has to be well-structured. Sometimes they send me just a minute of audio, but I can't decide that way. I need to see it in song format. It shows when someone doesn't know about music, it feels in the structure of the song.

What is the secret for a song to pass the test of time and remain a hit despite the years?
It's a good question, because there are issues that are songs that are 27 years old. I would say that I don't have the answer, but the truth is that you have to put all your effort and your heart into music. Not everyone achieves this with their songs, which they call "evergreens." And I am very lucky that house has returned with more force today, and that is why many people want to listen to my music again.

In your family there was a lot of influence from jazz and other genres on behalf of your father and grandmother, Ethel Waters. How did you get to electronic music?
I started with jazz, but I moved to dance jazz. And in the long run I was just at the right place and time. I had some recorded music and I met some guys at a music conference, and they liked my lyrics because they were different from what was happening in house at that time. I did jazz vocals over beat, and they liked that. Once I was able to get into this, I didn't go out.

PROVIDED

You were also a young woman in an industry dominated by men.
Yes, it was quite hard. All producers were men, so you must prove that you are serious, because they would want to sleep with you. You have to be tough, put on a very serious face. Many people are also condescending and talk to you as if you were a little girl who doesn't know what she is doing. Then you must be strong, convince yourself that you know what you are doing, constantly repeat to yourself that you can and know how to differentiate who has good intentions and who does not. Many girls are not recognized for their work, and that makes me very angry. I think there is still a long way to go.

What would you say to the girls who dream of being like you?
That they have to learn the field before anything else. There are ways to learn to write songs and become good at what you do. Then there is the business. Talent can only be 5 percent of success and the business can be the remaining 95 percent. Realize that this is a business, and do not take it personally. You will be rejected nine times out of 10, but never 10 out of 10. Resist and persist.

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Specials worth singing about

Top Philly spots are offering specialty menus and more for the coming of "Hamilton."

MOLLY GIVEN
MollyGiven@metro.us

"Hamilton," the smash-hit Broadway musical, is finally making the journey to the City of Brotherly Love for a three-month run (Aug. 27-Nov. 17). In celebration of the popular show hitting the stage in Philly, many top spots are featuring pre-theater menus, themed fare and enticing historical cocktails. Even if you haven't scored a ticket yet, these delicious specials are still perfect for history buffs or "Hamilton" enthusiasts alike.

Oloroso

Townsend Wentz's popular Spanish tapas hot spot is the ideal spot to catch a bite before seeing "Hamilton" since it's conveniently located across the street from Forrest Theatre. Oloroso will launch their first-ever pre-theater menu for the smash hit starting this week. The three-course prix-fixe menu features plenty of enticing dishes including tomato gazpacho, roasted beets, blistered peppers, Belgian endive salad, charred eggplant, wood-oven

pork belly, grilled octopus, pork meatballs, churros and more for $35. Imbibers can also enjoy $8 house red and white wine as well as $8 sangria. Dive into the pre-theater menu at Oloroso Tuesdays through Sundays from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

1121 Walnut St., oloroso-phl.com

Ocean Prime

The acclaimed seafood and steakhouse hot spot is offering an incredible deal for all theatergoers and "Hamilton" enthusiasts. Head to Ocean Prime starting this week to enjoy their three-course prix-fixe menu for $55 per person. Dishes include lobster bisque, blackened snapper, sea scallops, white truffle caviar deviled eggs, crème brulée and more. History buffs will also love Ocean Prime's specialty dishes and drinks such as Betsy's Buttercake (served with vanilla bean ice cream, fresh berries and raspberry sauce), their historical Rum Punch cocktail and The Revolution cocktail (served with Woodford Reserve Private Barrel, Carpano Antica Vermouth, Nonino Amaro and rosemary grapefruit peppercorn bitters.) Both of the cocktails will be available for $10 in conjunction with the pre-theater menu. The "Hamilton" pre-theater menu will be available Monday through Friday from 4:30-6:30 p.m. through Nov. 17.

124 S. 15th St., ocean-prime.com

Square 1682

This Center City hot spot is launching their first-ever pre-theater menu for "Hamilton" this week featuring one small plate, one large plate and one cocktail, a glass of wine or dessert for $36. Mouthwatering menu options include duck wings, kale salad, a meat and cheese board, cauliflower curry, jerk short rib, lemon pepper chicken and more. Dessert and cocktail options include chocolate affogato and peach cobbler, and their "You'll Be Back" cocktail ($13) inspired by Hamilton's place of birth in the British West Indies. Square 1682's "You'll Be Back" concoction is made with oat infused bourbon, raisin rum, East India Sherry, demarara sugar and spiced

Head to Ocean Prime to check out their "Hamilton" pre-theater menu.
ALL PHOTOS PUNCH MEDIA

tincture. Guests can enjoy the pre-theater menu daily from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
121 S. 17th St., square1682.com

CO-OP Restaurant & Lounge
The University City hot spot is featuring a new milk punch cocktail based on an old English preparation dating back nearly three centuries boasting brandy and a citrus base with nodes of warm spices. The 1787 Punch will be available for $10, and theatergoers can also show their "Hamilton" ticket to get 10 percent off of their bill as well. While at CO-OP guests can enjoy other enticing menu items including vegetable crudite, crunchy brussel sprouts, potato gnocchi, crab Fiorelli, seared Cape May sea scallops, grilled white shrimp, a teriyaki salmon burger and much more.
20 S. 33rd St., coop-philly.com

CO-OP's 1787 Punch.

Urban Farmer
Urban Farmer will be showcasing a specialty cocktail, the Founder's Fizz, in honor of "Hamilton" hitting the stage in Philly. The Founder's Fizz was the official lobby cocktail of the original "Hamilton" production in NYC with Lin-Manuel Miranda. The cocktail is made with gin, fresh lime juice and seltzer ($14) and any theatergoer who shows their ticket will get $2 off. While at Urban Farmer, Philadelphians can also try some of their other enticing menu options including seared foie gras, beets and burrata, mussels, barley brined pork chop, pan-roasted duck breast, halibut, Dayboat scallops, Skuna Bay salmon and much more.
1850 Benjamin Franklin Pkwy, urbanfarmerphiladelphia.com

Oloroso is offering a pre-theater menu starting this week.

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MATT BURKE

Matt Burke is a veteran sports journalist and the Founder and Editor in Chief of MetroBet.

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Nearly half of the NFL has a win total over/under set at 8.5 wins at **MetroBet.us/Sugar,** as there are a pack of teams that seemingly could go to a Super Bowl or wind up as one of the worst five teams in the league. That unpredictability, of course, is what makes the NFL so fun.

The Falcons have been mostly solid under head coach Dan Quinn, but he is one more below-.500 season from getting the boot. Here are the Falcons' season-by-season records under Quinn, who took the job in 2015:

2015: 8-8
2016: 11-5 (won NFC)
2017: 10-6 (lost to Eagles in divisional round)
2018: 7-9

GETTY IMAGES

Atlanta does deserve a bit of a pass for last season's poor mark, having lost seven starters to the Injured Reserve list. However, usually any team worth its salt will find one or two quality wins during the season, regardless of how beat up they are.

Here is the list of teams the Falcons beat last year:

Panthers (2)
Buccaneers (2)
Giants
Redskins
Cardinals

You can only play the teams on your schedule, but that's pretty brutal.

And this season's Falcons schedule is much, much tougher as Atlanta is tied with Indy as having the seventh-most difficult schedule in the league. They also open the season at Minnesota and then home against the Eagles in Week 2.

TWEET OF THE DAY

Matt Burke
@Burke_Metro

The Colts' odds to win Super Bowl LIV went from +1500 last week to +5000 upon Andrew Luck's sudden retirement.

The Falcons owned the 31st-worst defense in the NFL last year, according to Football Outsiders, and did very little in the offseason to remedy the issue. Matt Ryan and returning RB Devonta Freeman will put up some nice fantasy numbers, for sure, but the imbalance between Atlanta's offense and defense should spell another below-.500 season in real life.

The play: $10 on Falcons Under 8.5 wins (+108)

Best Bets

College FB: Utah at BYU game pick

The Utah Utes return every key cog from their 2018 offense that led them to a Pac-12 South title as well as several important defensive players. They will be a force to be reckoned with this year, and they should start their season with a victory in Provo against in-state rival BYU. The Utes' offense suffered at the tail end of last season due to injuries knocking out QB Tyler Huntley and RB Zack Moss. The latter was well on his way to an outstanding year in 2018 (1,096 yards on 171 carries, career-high 11 TDs) before hurting his knee. The Cougars were 18th in total defense last year but have to replace LB Sione Takitaki and DE Corbin Kaufusi, which could open things up for Utah's balanced attack.

Utah is poised to win the battle in the trenches on defense with linemen Leki Fotu and Bradlee Anae back in the fold. Manny Bowen, a graduate transfer from Penn State, should be a difference-maker at linebacker. The Utes were the second-best team in the nation in rushing yards against in 2018. It's also worth noting that their secondary forced 15 INTs last year. BYU's 76th-rated offense by yards per play last season will be hard-pressed to move the football effectively here.

The play: Utah spread

ROBERT CRISCOLA

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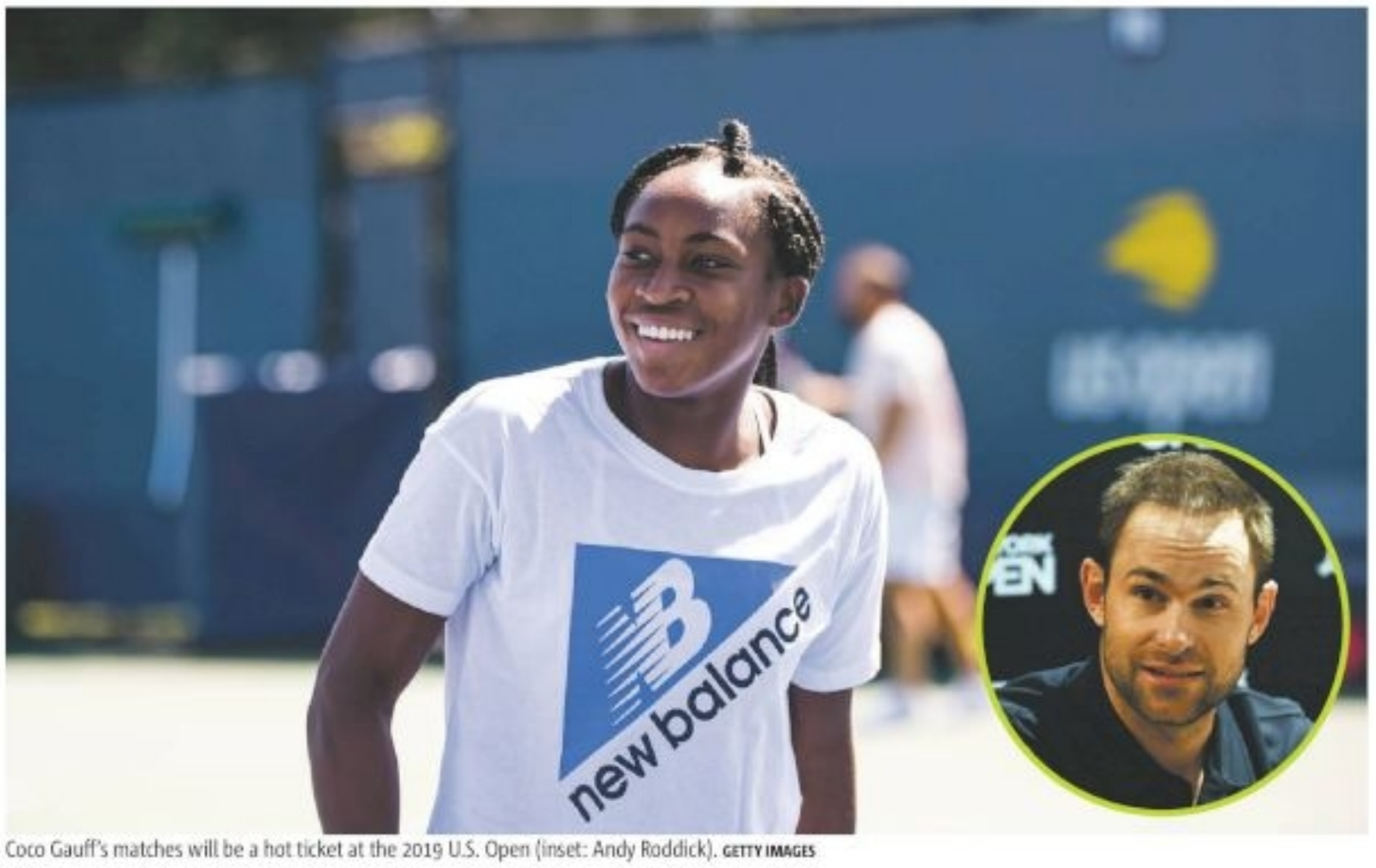
SPORTS

15-Year-old phenom Coco Gauff ready to take US Open by storm?

Former U.S. Open champ Andy Roddick says, limit your expectations.

ADAM ZAGORIA
sports@metro.us



Coco Gauff's matches will be a hot ticket at the 2019 U.S. Open (inset: Andy Roddick). GETTY IMAGES

Everywhere Andy Roddick went in New York in the days leading up to the U.S. Open, people wanted to talk to him about one tennis player.

And it wasn't Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal or Serena Williams.

It was 15-year-old sensation Coco Gauff, who will make her U.S. Open main-draw debut at 3 p.m. on Tuesday in Louis Armstrong Stadium against Anastasia Potapova of Russia.

Still, when Roddick passed Gauff the other day at the Open, even he was too overwhelmed to say hello.

"I walked past her over here and I was starstruck, I couldn't say hello," said Roddick, who won the 2003 U.S. Open a year before Gauff was born.

Thousands of tennis fans in New York will get to say hello to Gauff this week, as she debuts in singles and doubles at the Open after making a magical run to the fourth round of Wimbledon. Gauff was given wild cards into both the singles and doubles draws, where she will play with fellow teenager Caty McNally.

Gauff is coming off an impressive victory over world No. 2 Ash Barty, the French Open champion, in an exhibition last week in North Carolina.

At Wimbledon, she stunned Venus Williams in the first round before falling to eventual champion Simona Halep in the quarterfinals.

Gauff could meet another Grand Slam champion, defending U.S. Open champ Naomi Osaka, in the third round in New York.

Still, American tennis has seen teenage sensations rise and fall before, and Roddick cautions fans to be patient with Gauff.

"I personally don't want to see her on Arthur Ashe Stadium the first night of the tournament in front of 25,000 people," he said. "Two months ago, the average person didn't know who she was and now she's hanging out with Michelle Obama. She's going to be a star and I really believe in the hype around her ability.

"I hope everyone's patient. I know we always want the next one, but she'll get there. It's going to seem like an eternity until she's 17. She has plenty of time. She's going to be a star for a long time so I hope the powers that be treat that with a little sensitivity."

Roddick watched Gauff against Venus Williams at Wimbledon and was struck by her serve and her movement.

"When you're 15, the two things that are guaranteed to get better are movement and serve, whether that's speed, spin, placement," he said. "It's just a shot that's going to be better at 21 than it is at 15. She's already serving 115, 118 (mph) and she's on the shortlist of best servers in the game."

Gauff's parents, Corey and Candi Gauff, are both former athletes who are guiding their daughter's career. Corey played college basketball at Georgia State and Candi was a track and field star at Florida State.

The family moved to Florida so their daughter could excel at tennis.

Tennis — especially women's tennis — is filled with cautionary tales (see: Jennifer Capriati and Jelena Dokic).

Corey, who serves as Coco's coach, has been studying those story lines since his daughter was six or seven years old

"I went through everybody I thought was relevant, that won Grand Slams and were good young," he told Chris Clarey of The New York Times. "I went through every one of their situations and looked at where they were at a certain age, what they were doing. I asked a lot of questions because I was concerned about burnout. Am I doing the right things?"

He added: "I studied and studied to prepare myself to make sure if she was able to meet these goals, that we'd be able to help the right way. That was important. I still sit there and benchmark: 'OK, we're at this point now. How is she doing physically? Is she growing? This is what Capriati did at this stage. This is what (Martina) Hingis did at this stage.'"

The elder Gauff said he was focused on preventing injury, and also paying attention to how many matches and tournaments his daughter plays. Due to her age, Gauff faces a WTA-imposed limit on the number of tournaments she can play.

"She seems to have a great group of people around her," Roddick said. "I think she needs to look inward and not outward. Everyone's going to have an opinion. There's going to be a lot of new faces. ... I would like to see her team become even tighter.

"If she loses first round of the U.S. Open, she's still the same prospect that she is today. It's a setback, she'll get there, ignore the noise."

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Luck story a warning for Eagles, Wentz

Eagles QB has constantly been plagued by injuries.

JOE PANTORNO
joseph.pantorno@metro.us

Like Andrew Luck, Carson Wentz has been plagued by injuries. GETTY IMAGES

There's a precautionary tale for the Philadelphia Eagles to heed in Andrew Luck's sudden retirement.

Protect Carson Wentz at all costs.

Luck called it quits on Saturday night, ending a once-promising career that was cut short due to a litany of injuries.

Most of the blame for that can be put squarely on the shoulders of Indianapolis' offensive line over the years.

The unit tasked in protecting the franchise quarterback did not do its job as Luck was constantly exposed to pressure, contact and crunching hits.

In the five seasons Luck played at least 15 games, he was sacked 27 times or more in four of them. That included two 41-sack seasons in his 2012 rookie season and 2016.

The constant abuse on his body resulted in several serious injuries that included torn cartilage, a concussion, a torn labrum, a lacerated kidney and a torn abdomen.

If that isn't a clear-enough message to all NFL teams to invest in their offensive line, then they won't get the message.

The Eagles allowed an alarming amount of sacks last season, which did little to keep Wentz comfortable in the pocket.

In the 11 games he played in before his season ended early because of a back injury, Wentz was sacked 31 times.

For a player that was coming back from a torn ACL the year before, that's far too much contact.

Both Luck and Wentz are built similarly, can extend the play with their athleticism, have strong arms. But their injury history is starting to look a lot alike, too.

Wentz has been injured in every year since his senior year of college at North Dakota State, when he broke his wrist.

Before his rookie year in 2016, Wentz suffered a hairline fracture in his ribs. While he missed the entire preseason, he played in all 16 regular-season games.

With Wentz looking healthy ahead of the 2019 season, Luck's misfortunes will be fresh in the mind of Eagles fans this year as they hope to have their starting quarterback in the fold all year.

Nerves won't be eased as the book is still out on just how good the offensive line will be. Which means Wentz will be put under the microscope every time he's touched this year.

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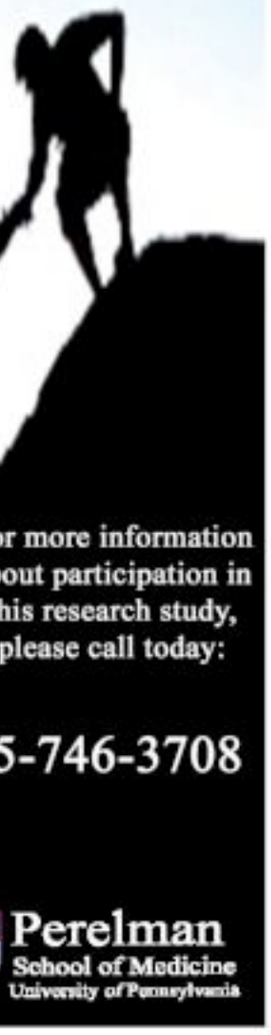

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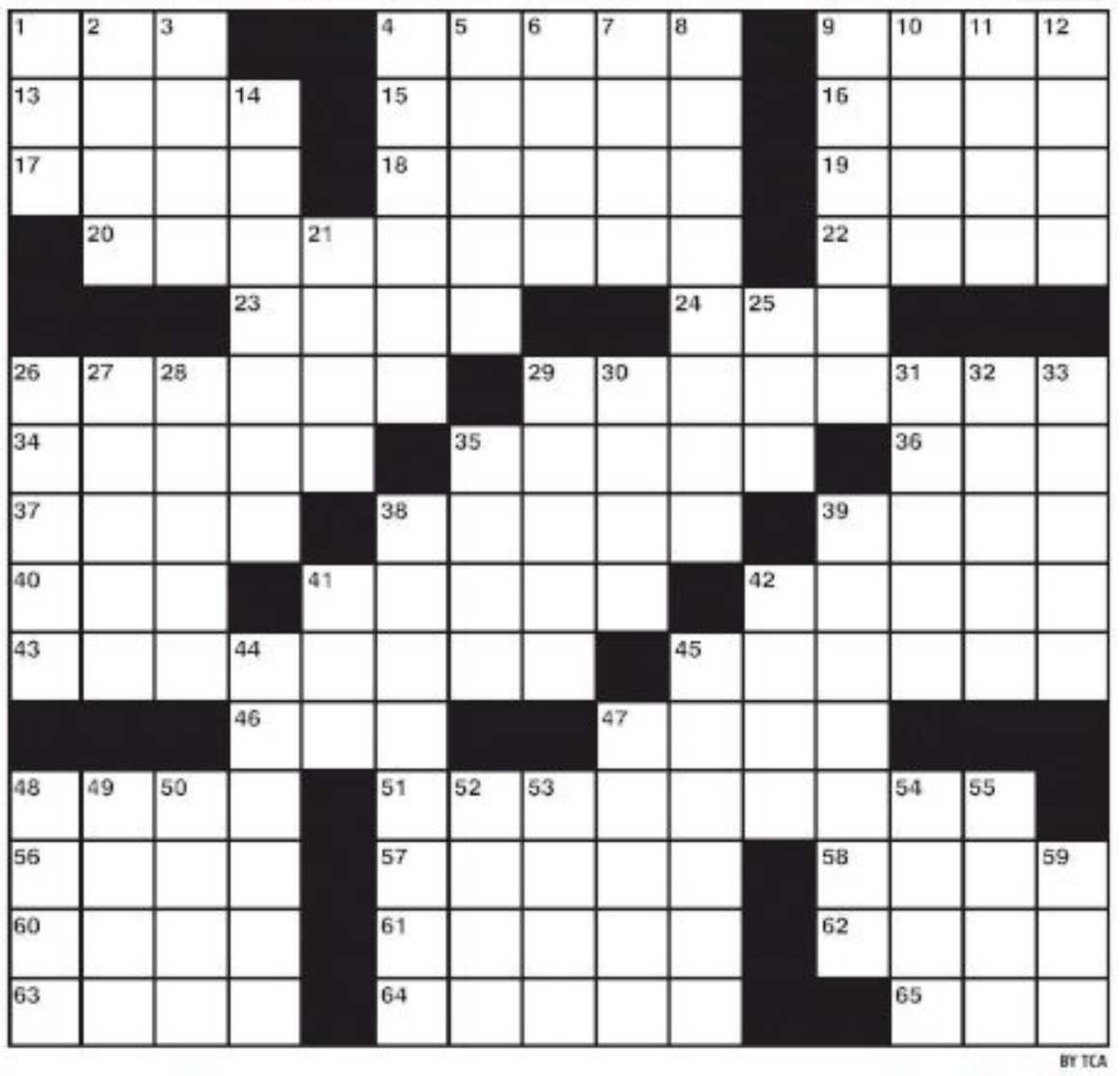
19 Meander
20 Macho
22 Keeps
23 "__! The Herald Angels Sing"
24 Org. for Grizzlies & Pelicans
26 Conflict; struggle
29 Day with short bank hours
34 Want badly
35 Wally & Courteney
36 "__ Miss"; southern univ.
37 Costa __
38 Hauled away a car
39 Graceful dance
40 Presidential nickname
41 Yearns
42 Prescribed amounts
43 Bugged
45 Noiseless
46 Wee hour
47 Told tales
48 Forehead
51 Abandoning
56 Mauna Loa's output
57 Being in debtt
58 __-do-well; bum
60 Wrapped up
61 __ pie
62 Fence door
63 Warp
64 Concluded
65 Youth

DOWN
1 Family member
2 Garden man
3 One of the Three Bears
4 Relieve someone's doubt
5 Hopscotch grid drawer's "pen"
6 Hired vehicle
7 Out in the __; visible to all
8 Felt bitter about
9 Pandemonium
10 Moon shine
11 Tilt to one side
12 Potato varieties
14 Jewish school
21 Eatery
25 Students' transport
26 Reject
27 Navajo or Sioux
28 Runs competitively
29 Planted
30 Pink-slips
31 Throw water on
32 Woody, for one
33 Bread ingredient
35 Dunce cap's shape
38 Tedious
39 __ on to; keeping
41 Slammer
42 Kicked the bucket
44 In the direction of
45 Burned the edges of
47 Knight's spear
48 Sci-fi villain
49 Wild party
50 Chef's need
52 Look-alike
53 Lemon peel
54 Actor McDonough
55 __ rise out of; provoke
59 Mr. Skelton



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S	T	C	N	R	Z	E	Z	Y	E
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A	I	E	T	M	D	N	J	R	I
Y	N	L	S	E	D	I	V	A	D
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P	M	O	C	T	I	S	H	O	W

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5		3	1	8	2	7		4
7					3			
3		9	2		6			7
1					8	3		2
		8	5		7	6	1	

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O	W	N	S	■	V	E	R	N	A	C	U	L	A	R
C	S	I	■	C	E	N	T	S	■	H	A	S	T	E
■	■	P	O	I	N	T	■	■	V	I	N	■	■	■
S	H	O	A	T	S	■	■	M	E	N	T	O	R	■
P	E	T	T	Y	■	D	I	A	N	A	■	V	I	A
A	X	E	S	■	W	O	R	S	T	■	L	E	S	S
T	E	N	■	M	A	L	E	S	■	P	A	R	K	A
■	S	T	R	O	L	L	■	■	J	A	C	L	Y	N
■	■	■	A	U	K	■	■	R	O	D	E	O	■	■
N	O	R	M	S	■	S	O	A	K	S	■	O	F	F
E	X	U	B	E	R	A	N	C	E	■	S	K	I	T
C	E	L	L	■	U	L	C	E	R	■	H	E	R	D
K	N	E	E	■	B	E	E	R	S	■	Y	D	S	■

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